

Miami East Local Schools Student Athletic Policy

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to give student athletes, cheerleaders and other interested persons a guide to the operation of the interscholastic athletic program of Miami East Local Schools.

The student athletes and cheerleaders are obligated to conform to the "Student Code of Conduct" as established by the Board of Education, training rules and policies established by the Athletic Department and the rules and regulations established by the coaches of each specific sport.

This handbook will inform you and your parents/guardians of the rules and expectations that are appropriate while you represent the Miami East Local School District. It is your responsibility as a student to read these rules and abide by them. It must be understood that participants who violate these rules, regulations, policies and procedures shall face disciplinary action.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Miami East School District is to provide an individually focused and progressive, quality education that enables students to be contributing citizens of the local and world communities.

Philosophy

The Miami East Local School District considers athletics to be an integral part of the school's educational process, which provides experiences that will help students physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. The additional time and physical requirements of these activities demand that each participant attain and maintain his/her best possible physical and mental condition. Athletics teaches participants the value of cooperation and competition in achieving team goals. By promoting good sportsmanship at all levels, the athletic program instills pride, reinforces a sound value structure and enhances the individual's self image, as well as the image of the school district and the community.

Every athlete must be aware that he/she represents more than himself/herself. Because he/she represents the team, school and community, his/her appearance and conduct must reflect this responsibility. Standards of behavior are established to enable students to meet their responsibilities, as well as to promote safety and assist participants in reaching their maximum potential. It must be remembered that participation in athletics is not a right, but a privilege that may be regulated.

Policy Duration

The athletic policy is enforceable year around, which includes all district holidays and vacations. (24 hours per day, 365 days per year).

Interscholastic Sports

The Miami East Local School District sponsors competition in the following sports:

FALL SEASON SPORTS

Football	Varsity, Reserve, 7 th & 8 th grade
Boys Golf	Varsity, Reserve
Girls Golf	Varsity, Reserve
Boys Soccer	Varsity, Reserve
Girls Soccer	Varsity, Reserve
Volleyball	Varsity, Reserve, 7 th & 8 th grade
Boys Cross Country	Varsity
Girls Cross Country	Varsity

WINTER SEASON SPORTS

Boys Basketball	Varsity, Reserve, Freshman, 7 th & 8 th grade
Girls Basketball	Varsity, Reserve, Freshman, 7 th & 8 th grade
Wrestling	Varsity, Reserve, 7 th & 8 th grade.
Swimming/Diving	Varsity Only

SPRING SEASON SPORTS

Baseball	Varsity, Reserve
Softball	Varsity, Reserve
Boys Track	Varsity, Reserve, 7 th & 8 th grade
Girls Track	Varsity, Reserve, 7 th & 8 th grade

FALL SEASON SPORT ACTIVITY

Cheerleading-Football	Varsity, 7 th & 8 th grade
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WINTER SEASON SPORT ACTIVITY

Cheerleading-Boys Basketball	Varsity, Reserve, 7 th & 8 th grade
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Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors may be on the Varsity Cheerleading squad

DEFINITION OF AN ATHLETE

"Athlete", for the purpose of these rules and regulations, shall be defined as any student enrolled in the Miami East Local School District who participates in district sponsored financed interscholastic activities as an athlete or cheerleader in grades 7-12.

EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES

Athletes representing the Miami East Schools must realize that their conduct reflects on themselves, their team, their school and their community. Therefore, all Miami East athletes shall:

- **Maintain academic eligibility.**
- **Maintain athletic eligibility.**
- **Sign and return the acknowledgement of the Athletic Policy.**
- **Display a high standard of social behavior.**
- **Display proper sportsmanship in defeat, as well as in victory at all sporting events, as a participant or spectator.**
- **Respect authority—parents, officials, teachers, coaches administrators and others.**
- **Exhibit proper spirit of cooperation.**
- **Demonstrate a dedication to hard work and training.**
- **Display proper behavior both in and out of school.**
- **Exemplify good citizenship and serve as good role models.**
- **Show respect for the integrity of the athletic awards system, in which earned awards are non-transferable and may be revoked.**
- **Sign and return Upper Valley Medical Center Consent for Treatment form.**

REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

- A. Any athlete who has been dismissed from a squad for any violation during a sport season will not be eligible to participate on any other athletic squad in any other sport during the same sport season.
- B. If an athlete is cut from a squad, the individual may try-out for another team in the same sport season if the time and opportunity permits the tryout to take place.
- C. If an athlete quits a squad after the first scheduled contest, he/she may not try-out for other sports in that sports season.
- D. **Transportation/Travel**—All participating team members must travel to and from out-of-town contests by means of school arranged transportation provided by the Principal and/or Athletic Director. The parents or legal guardians may request that the athletes ride home from the contest or to other scheduled school sponsored events with them; however, such a request must be in writing and approved by the administration (Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director) prior to the game/event. Special consideration will only be given in extraordinary circumstances. An Athletic Department Sign-Out sheet must be used at all times.
- E. **Permission to Participate**—Before an individual may participate in conditioning, practice or competition, a valid physical card signed by his/her parent/guardian and a medical examiner (Physician {M.D., D.O., or D.C.}, Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant) and an Emergency Medical Form signed by the student and parent/guardian must be on file with the Athletic Trainer and Athletic Director.
- F. **Attendance/Participation**—An athlete who is not in attendance for ½ of the school day will not be permitted to participate in any extra-curricular

activities that day. One half of the day is considered to be 7:40 a.m. to 11:36 a.m. or 11:36 a.m. to 2:32 p.m. Pre-approved, documented absences (college visits, doctor appointments, funerals, court appearances etc.) are exceptions to the attendance participation policy. Parental notes are not sufficient to create an exception to this policy. Emergencies and other extenuating circumstances must be handled through the Principal and/or Athletic Director.

G. **Appearance**-Athletes are expected to have a well-groomed appearance. His/her hairstyle must be appropriate for each sport. Personal style is not to interfere with the individual's performance nor present a situation which could cause a hazardous condition for the athlete or other athletes. Other appearance guidelines may be required by the coach. Appearance expectations must be reasonable.

H. **Eligibility/Grades 9-12**-The eligibility policy as stated by the Ohio High School Athletic Association is: *A student must be passing in a minimum of five classes which would earn one (1) credit for the year or one-half (1/2) credit for the semester, in addition, the student must earn a minimum 2.0 GPA each nine week grading period in order to be eligible to participate in athletics the following nine week grading period. Academic Probation is offered to those students who meet the State standards but fall under Miami East academic standards. See AD for info.*

Grades 7-8-The eligibility policy as stated by the Ohio High School Athletic Association is: *A student must be passing 75% of subjects taken. However, any student receiving two failing grades for a nine week grading period will be ineligible to participate in athletics the following nine week grading period regardless of the passing percentage of subjects taken.*

I. **Sportsmanship**-Miami East Schools place the highest priority on good sportsmanship and integrity. Parents, student/athletes and cheerleaders each play a fundamental role. We ask you to take that responsibility seriously and lead by example. Please attend our athletic contests with spirit and enthusiasm, but also with courtesy to the officials, our opponents and their fans. Together, we hope to establish a positive image of the Miami East Local Schools. It must be remembered that participation in athletic activities and being a spectator is not a right, but a privilege that will be regulated by basic rules of good sportsmanship:

- **Showing respect for opponents at all times.**
- **Showing respect for officials and their decisions.**
- **Knowing and following the rules of the contest.**
- **Maintaining self control at all times.**
- **Recognizing and appreciation skilled performances regardless of affiliation.**

J. **Squad Limitations**-Sometimes it is necessary to trim the size of a team down to a workable number. When "cutting" of student/athletes is necessary, the coach will meet with the student/athletes to explain the criteria used to reduce the team. Try-outs will be at least three (3) days in length from the start of official practice before reductions are made to ensure adequate time to evaluate candidates.

A student completing a Fall or Winter sports season, or a student who is coming off of ineligible status, will also be assured a tryout of at least three (3) days. Every attempt will be made to give each student the same amount of time to demonstrate skills. The entire coaching staff will participate in the

evaluation of each student/athlete in a given sport in a consistent and equitable manner. The Head Coach will be responsible for making the final decision with respect to his/her team.

Any student cut from a squad will be entitled to a conference with the coach to explain the reasons why he/she did not make the team and to suggest possible alternatives for improving skills, thereby enhancing his/her opportunity for making the team in the future.

- K. **Vacations**—Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged. In the event that absence due to vacation is unavoidable, the athlete must:
- Contact the Head Coach prior to the vacation.
 - Practice one day for each practice or contest day missed prior to resuming competition.
 - Be willing to assume the consequences related to his/her status on that team as a starter, second team and so forth.
- L. **Two Sports Participation**—No athlete or cheerleader may participate in two sports during a season without an agreement by both coaches and signed permission of the parent/guardian. The athlete or cheerleader must specify which is to be his/her first priority. Academic/athletic/conduct/eligibility violations will deter participation in both sports.
- M. **Special Team Rules**—Coaches may have team rules in addition to the Athletic Policy, provided they are submitted to the Athletic Director for approval and are in print prior to the beginning of his/her sport and distributed to team members.
- N. **Lettering/Awards**—Awards are presented to student/athletes to represent an accomplishment. Awards are earned; not just given away. Athletes must show respect for the integrity of the athletic awards system, in which earned awards are nontransferable and may be revoked. A student/athlete will be presented an award for his/her participation when he/she meets the following criteria:
- **Attend and participate in practice to the satisfaction of the coach.**
 - **Secure the recommendation of the coach.**
 - **Meet all requirements of the Athletic Policy.**
 - **Participate in the required number of quarters, halves, games etc., or have earned a certain level of points.**
 - **The coach has the authority to change letter requirements for individual athletes for disciplinary reasons with the knowledge and approval of the Athletic Director.**
 - **Attend the sports award program to receive his/her award. Only those excused by the Coach and approved by the Athletic Director may receive the award at a later date.**
 - **Special awards may also be presented based on the coach's criteria.**
- O. **Insurance**—All students participating in interscholastic athletics must have health insurance provided by their parent/guardian. The school is not responsible for providing health insurance to its student/athletes.
- P. **Athletic Equipment/Uniforms**—As an athlete participating in interscholastic athletics in the Miami East Local School District, you have the following responsibilities concerning school issued uniform and equipment items:

- It is extremely important that your equipment is properly used to provide you the protection for which it was designed.
- It is your responsibility to periodically (at least weekly) examine your equipment for damage.
- Damaged equipment must be repaired BEFORE you compete or practice. You cannot be adequately protected with defective equipment. Bring all your equipment problems immediately to the attention of your coach for resolution.
- Your equipment and uniform are issued to you alone.
- You are responsible for the security of these items.
- Do not loan your equipment or uniform to others.
- Keep all items under lock.
- Equipment or uniform items that are lost or stolen are your financial responsibility. Athletes will be placed on the student fee list and report cards will be withheld until restitution is made to the Athletic Department.

- Q. Injured Athlete—Any athlete who has been denied participation by a physician will not be permitted to practice or play in a game/event until a physician's release has been granted. The Board of Education hired Athletic Trainer has the authority to deny participation to an injured athlete. A coach, parent or athlete cannot override a physician's or the Athletic Trainer's denial of participation for injury. Injured athletes should attend all practices, games and other team functions unless the injury absolutely prevents this.
- R. **Activity Conflict Resolution**—Each conflict will be handled on a case-by case basis.

INFRACTIONS

Due to the health, safety and welfare of our student/athletes and cheerleaders, we highly encourage members of our community to contact the proper law enforcement agency if an alleged Code of Conduct or Substance Use infraction is or has been committed.

Alleged infractions may be reported to the High School Administration. The person reporting the alleged infraction must provide a signed **ATHLETIC POLICY STATEMENT** that documents the allegation, the date, the time and the place and/or address of the alleged infraction. This statement will remain confidential with the Junior High and/or High School Administration. The filing of a confidential **ATHLETIC POLICY STATEMENT** will initiate an investigation.

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a representative of their school, athletes should strive to develop and maintain a high set of standards in the classroom, in their respective sport and in the community.

The Miami East Local Schools have set standards, i.e., rules that every athlete is expected to follow. It is the responsibility of each coach to inform his/her athletes of the team rules and regulations that govern their sport as specified in this Athletic Policy and the coach's rules.

Infractions of the coach's rules, the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook, this Athletic Policy, the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Policies or the Ohio Revised Code shall be reported to the Athletic Director and/or Principal.

1) OFFENSES—Due to the broad range of potential infractions, the following offenses are examples of punishable infractions without being an exhaustive list. The disciplinary consequences of violating these potential offenses will be at the discretion of the Junior High and/or High School Administration and will not follow a progressive type of discipline.

a. Examples of Punishable Infractions

i. Theft, Damage or Misuse of Home and/or Host School and Private/Public Property—

No athlete shall steal or intentionally damage school or private/public property.

ii. Threat of Assault on or Physical Injury to Students and/or Adults—No athlete shall intentionally threaten, assault, cause or attempt to cause physical injury to other students and/or adults, including all forms of hazing.

iii. Sexual Misconduct/Harassment—No athlete shall intimidate or be a party to the intimidation of another student for the purpose of sexual interests, engage in any form of exhibitionism, or act of sexual misconduct/harassment as defined by the Miami East Student Handbook.

iv. Misuse of Electronic Mediums (internet/e-mail, texting, etc) No athlete should use electronic mediums to ridicule, berate, harass, coaches, players, officials or spectators. (See Fan Guidelines).

b. Severity Clause—Athletes who violate the law, good citizenship or the Student Code of Conduct, special team rules and/or the Athletic Code may receive any or all of the following consequences. These consequences do not follow the established stages of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

- Denial of participation
- Suspension from participation
- Suspension from school
- Recommendation for expulsion from school

2) SUBSTANCE ABUSE—Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Products

a. 1st violation—Any athlete violating the Athletic Code as it applies to substance use will be denied participation under the following guidelines:

i. In Season—denial of participation for 40% of the contests (season or tournament) based on the number of regular season scheduled events. Non-participation of contests must be consecutive, not selective.

Note: If the violation occurs with less than 40% of the contests remaining of that sports season, the penalty shall carry over to the following chosen sport. Non-participation of contests must be consecutive, not selective.

ii. Out of Season—denial of participation in the next chosen sport for 40% of the contests (season or tournament) based on the number of regular season scheduled events. Non-participation of contests must be consecutive, not selective.

iii. Intervention-all 1st violation athletes have the option of signing up for Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Intervention classes. It is the responsibility of the individual to locate and sign up for the classes. (Miami Co. Recovery Counsel) Completion of all required classes will reduce suspension of play from 40% to 10%. **There will be no reduction of penalty through substance abuse intervention for the second violation. **

c. 2nd violation-Any athlete violating the Athletic Code as it applies to substance use for the second time will be denied participation for one calendar year from date of violation. Denial of participation for such a violation will include the following: non-participation in practices, non-participation in tryout activities, no traveling to or sitting on the team bench during competition and forfeiture of all season awards.**There will be no reduction of the penalty through substance abuse intervention for the second violation.**

d. Subsequent Violations-Any athlete violating the Athletic Code as it applies to substance use for the third time will be denied participation for the remainder of their High School eligibility.

e. Multiple Violations-In the case of multiple violations, consequences will be imposed consecutively, not concurrently, i.e., the Athlete cannot begin a second penalty until the first penalty has been completed.

f. Junior High Athletes-Disciplinary actions for the Athletic Policy and/or Student Code of Conduct violations which occur at the Junior High level will not carry over when the athlete is promoted to the High School.

APPEAL PROCESS

If you wish to appeal the action of the disciplinary consequences of the initial Athletic Policy hearing, you may do so with the Principal/Athletic Director by scheduling a hearing within five (5) school days of the initial hearing date.

If you wish to appeal the action of the disciplinary consequences of the Athletic Policy hearing with the Principal/Athletic Director, you may do so with the Superintendent by scheduling a hearing within five (5) school days of the hearing date with the Principal/Athletic Director.

In the absence of both the Principal and the Superintendent, you may schedule a hearing with the District Designee in charge.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

When a parent has an issue regarding his/her player, the program in general or anything connected to the program, the parent will resolve the matter in the following sequence:

1. Set up meeting with Coach to discuss concerns. Meeting should be held at a time agreed upon by the Coach and parent, away from practice or playing field. If parent concerns are not met to satisfaction, they may proceed with step 2.
2. Set up a meeting with Athletic Director, at a time agreed upon by both parties, to discuss concerns. If parent concerns are not met to satisfaction, they may proceed with step 3.
3. Set up meeting with Principal, at a time agreed upon by both parties, to discuss concerns.

